

lication, it is better to leave *sexpunctella*, Fb., 1794, as a synonym of *virgella*, Thubg., 1794.

Ethmia terminella, the latest recruit to the British List, is widely distributed on the Continent and has been recorded from Belgium, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Austria-Hungary, S. Europe, N. Africa and Asia Minor. I have taken it at Montreux (Switzerland) and at Hyères (S. France) and have also a specimen from Baluchistan.

4. *DOLICHARTHRIA*, Steph., 1834 = *STENIA*, Dup., 1845.

Dolicharthria, Steph., Ill. Brit. Ent., Haust., IV, 55 (30.iv.1834): type [*punctalis*, Schiff.=] *longipedalis*, Curtis, Stephens.

Stenia, Duponchel, Cat. méth. Léop. Eur., p. 201 (4.vii.1845): type *punctalis*, Schiff.

Stenia, "Guen.": Meyr., Rev. Handb., p. 421 (1928).

It is not evident why Stephens' genonym has been overlooked. It was duly described and has eleven years' precedence over Duponchel's *Stenia*, which, incidentally, is invalid in any case as being a homonym of *Stenia*, Kirby, in Richardson's *Faun. Bor. Amer.* (4), p. 133 (x.1837) (Coleoptera).

(To be continued.)

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

Trials with Dacus oleae.—In November and December 1937 we continued our researches at Formia, a town on the seashore near Naples, with many larvae of olive-flies. They feed within the fruits whence most of them come out and form their pupae under the earth. From maggoty olives we obtained pupae of which we made three lots.

One of these lots was kept in the open, where temperature varied from 5° to 20° C. (41-68° F.), and there a few flies emerged on the finest days. There are still several pupae, which look to be alive, that have not yet produced their adults after two months.

Other pupae were put into a cage, which we set near the ceiling of our warmed room. In that place the temperature is 24-27° (75-81°) during the day, and 10-15° (50-59°) during the night. Many flies emerged gradually. Their emergences were plentiful on the sunny days, continuing scarce, for one day, if the sky became cloudy. However, the pupae were arrested in their development, when sunshine lacked for two days or more, although, if the weather was bad, the temperature within our room was often higher than when the sun shone.

The third lot of pupae were exposed, for about an hour, in the rays reflected by a sheet of tin. The thermometer in the shade marked 18° (64°), in the sun 44° (111°), and in the zone of reflected rays 65° (149°). The environment was dry and the wind was feeble. Afterwards those pupae were kept in our warmed rooms. Only a few adults developed inside those pupae but, being unable to come out from the shells, they soon died. All the other pupae dried, and no flies emerged from that lot.

From 21st to 25th December 1937 the sky was often serene at Formia, and we exposed, in reflected rays, many maggots that had just issued from olives.

One morning, while the temperature was 7° C. (45° F.) in the shade, 27° (81°) in the sun, and 48° (118°) in the zone of reflected rays, the maggots became excited, but they formed pupae after 30 to 60 minutes. Most of those pupae appear to be still living after a fortnight.

At the temperature of 18° (64°) in the shade, about 30° (86°) in the sun, and 50° to 65° (86-149°) in the reflected rays, some larvae were very excited during an exposure for 25 minutes. Afterwards in the shade they delayed 5-6 hours to form pupae which died and soon became black.

Other larvae were put into a box, filled with loose earth, under which they hid, but whence they came out as soon as reflected rays, varying from 45° to 65° (113-149°), owing to feeble nebulosity and wind, were sent over the box. Looking at the pupae formed under the earth (10-15 millimeters depth) we saw that some of them died in spite of the shelter and scanty December radiations.—O. QUERCI.

COLLECTING NOTES.

NOTES ON SOME LARVAE OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA.—I have taken many larvae of *Dilina tiliae* on the lime trees in my garden. I find the younger larvae under the foliage of the lower branches. As they grow older, they apparently move higher up, after which their presence is indicated by a fall of bitten leaves. I then search with field glasses and, on detecting a larva, the branch is severed with a "long-arm" cutter. Sometimes they can be found, at night, by the use of a small acetylene lamp. It is surprising how acetylene light shows up all larvae against foliage. I have often trapped the full-fed larvae by tying a strip of sacking around the trunk of the tree and packing the upper part with soil. When the larvae walk down the stem they find a convenient pocket of earth in which to pupate. Fully fed larvae have been found as early as August 1 and as late as September 30. On one occasion, three larvae were taken on the same day (August 7), one of which was quite small, one half-grown and the third more than three part grown.

Larvae of *Smerinthus ocellatus* are abundant on narrow-leaved sallow plants just outside my premises. I once took eight fine caterpillars on one small plant, which they had almost stripped. I have also taken the larvae on apple trees (both cultivated and "crab") in my own garden, on willow and—once—on "sloe" (*Prunus spinosa*). They usually "go down" towards the end of August; but I have taken them as late as the beginning of October.

Smerinthus populi has been found almost full-fed towards the end of July and still quite young on the same date. Others were still feeding in late September. I have observed ova of this species as early as 27th June and as late as August 15. Larvae on Aspen (*Populus tremula*) have produced moths that appear to be smaller and with more pointed forewings than those on other species of poplar. I have reared females of the pale buff form from both Aspen and "white poplar" (*P. alba*).